

## Asheville City Council April 13, 2021 Email Comments

TimeStamp	Text
4/12/2021 7:42:00 PM	<p>Dear Mayor and City Council Members,</p> <p>I am emailing to express my concern and outrage over the recent removals (and planned removals) of houseless camps in the city and to urge you to place a moratorium on such unjust evictions.</p> <p>When you clear camps, you sever important community connections. Being as two of your council priorities are supporting "An Equitable and Diverse Community" and "A connected and engaged community," these actions seem antithetical to the vision set forth by the Council. Camps begin to create this connected and engaged community that you describe, one that helps to ensure that the needs of each unhoused person are met (considering that the City itself has failed to meet these very same needs). These connections are vital, especially considering many unhoused folks do not have the luxury of a phone or computer that can connect them to other people or local resources. Moreover, in the midst of a pandemic, it increases the potential for Covid-19 to spread.</p> <p>When you clear camps, you risk the safety, stability, and wellbeing of every individual who lives there. In regards to the statement given by the City, I am disappointed to see where Asheville's priorities lie. The statement describes that: "While the City has been aligned with CDC guidance, which advises that unsheltered populations be allowed to remain in place during the pandemic to help cut down on the transmission of COVID, this guidance also advises that encampments should be moved if there are safety concerns."</p> <p>I have to wonder, when it has been shown time and time again to risk the safety of unhoused folks to clear camps, whose "safety" are we even considering? What is apparent to me when I ask this question is that safety is not the goal. Comfort, however, is. The City is deeply invested in ensuring the *comfort* of middle and upper-class homeowners, but it fails to maintain a vested interest in the actual *lives* of unhoused folks who reside here.</p> <p>If you are interested in maintaining the safety and comfort of both of these communities, I would encourage you to allocate funds from inflated budgetary items like the APD towards immediate housing solutions.</p> <p>*Allowing any further evictions is an act of violence against our community.*</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Juliana Maurer -- she/her juliana.quinn.m@gmail.com</p>
4/13/2021 12:52:00 AM	<p>We are STILL in a pandemic. There are CDC guidelines that are supposed to keep camp evictions from happening in order to prevent the spread of COVID. Gentrifiers' 'safety concerns' are nothing compared to what folks have to go through to move their homes time and time again. Without being given answers to our housing crisis, we demand for an eviction moratorium NOW. Stop.</p> <p>Alessia</p>

4/13/2021 12:34:00 PM

With 30% of the Asheville Police department gone, there is an opportunity to relocate spending back towards the community. The decision to remove camps of people experiencing homelessness in Asheville is a cruel and unjust solution to our housing crisis. If this issue is going to be resolved, we must house, feed, and assist our houseless community with the resources they need to help live a more sustainable and comfortable life. You cannot dispose people like trash and expect a problem to disappear. A moratorium on evictions is also needed immediately so no one else loses their home during the ongoing housing crisis. There is \$4 million worth of police salaries that should be invested to helping our houseless community instead funding an institution that terrorizes our most vulnerable population. This is how we get an equity focused budget. Defund the Asheville police department and redirect funds back towards our community. This issue will not be resolved through further displacement and violence. To Mayor Esther Manheimer and City Manager Debra Campbell - If you cannot do your job, quit your job. This is your responsibility.